

2/26/02
AUAR TAC Meeting Notes

Members Present: Skip Langer (SWCD), Richard Freese (RPW), Tim Swanson (Marion Township Resident), Jim Baier (Marion Township Board Member), Ed Scherr (Marion Township Resident), Don Nelson (DNR), Lee Ganske (Committee on Urban Design and Environment), Chuck Michaels (Olmsted County Environmental Commission), John Harford (Wetland Conservation Act administrator), Jim Mosser (Marion Township Resident), and Charlie Reiter (Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department)

Members Absent: Joellen Rumley (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), Dave Senjem (Rochester City Council), Jeff Thompson (Olmsted County Board of Commissioners)

Staff Present: Barb Huberty (RPW), Leslie Knapp (Earth Tech), Trudy Richter (Richardson-Richter and Associates)

Proceedings: After receiving an overview of the meeting agenda and objectives, Barb provided TAC members with some follow-up information from their 1/3 meeting on stewardship. Sandi Goslee (Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department) finalized the “Environmental Stewardship Opportunities” document incorporating many of the comments given by TAC members. (Copies of the final document were distributed to TAC members on 2/26.) Using this document as a guide, Sandi made a presentation to the City Council on 2/11. This presentation concluded with two sets of recommendations: recommendations applicable for incorporation into the AUAR Mitigation Plan and those of a more general nature that should be considered by the Council for application City-wide. The Council agreed to the recommendations to be included in the draft AUAR and Mitigation Plan and can be found therein.

Leslie gave TAC members a status report on the Air Quality assessment portion of the impact analysis. Because of a delay in the completion of the Traffic Impact Analysis, the air quality impact modeling was not completed in time for distribution of the preliminary review draft to the TAC members. This work is still in process and will be completed in time for inclusion in the final draft that will be put on public notice. If unacceptable impacts are identified, they will have to be addressed in the Mitigation Plan. If this becomes the case, Barb will summarize the findings and distribute them to the TAC in advance of the 4/11 Open House.

Trudy and Leslie then facilitated a “walk-through” of the findings of the impact analysis and any associated mitigation measures. A revised Summary of Mitigation Measures (Table 3-1) was distributed and used as the basis for this presentation. (This table had been revised to fill in some gaps and correct some inconsistencies discovered after distribution of the preliminary review draft.) TAC members provided input and discussion throughout this presentation. Leslie will now take this feedback and prepare the final draft AUAR and Mitigation Plan.

The Final Draft AUAR and Mitigation Plan will be put on notice for the 30-day public comment period on 4/1/02 (as published in the EQB Monitor). Copies of the final draft will be placed at RPW, ROPD, the Rochester Public Library, and with the Marion Town Board, as well as being posted on the AUAR web site by April 1st. (Jim Mosser and Ed Scherr will also have hard copies.) A public open house will be held on Thursday, April 11th from 5 to 7 pm at Willow Creek Middle School. Notice for the open house will be provided via a RPB advertisement, posters for the Marion Town Hall and Helen’s Pancake diner, direct mailings to attendees of the last open house, notice on the AUAR web site, and word of mouth. The format will be similar to the last open house, but with fewer map stations. Half-hour presentations will be given at 5:30 and 7:30 to summarize the findings and recommendations of the study, explain how the public comment process works, provide time for questions and opportunities to visit with staff and TAC members.

At the end of the public comment period, the draft report will be finalized and redistributed to the required agencies prior to final adoption. Internally, ROPD and RPW staff have work to do in the meantime to set up procedures to train staff and track compliance with the AUAR.